

A Message from the Mayor and Council, January 28, 2022

By now most of you will have heard of the demonstration and illegal border blockade planned for tomorrow, Saturday, which promises to bring a flood of protestors and spectators to our community. We have been in touch with the RCMP, CPO's and Sheriffs, and the Minister of Justice. The Minister's Office has assured us all police forces are aware of the situation and will be present and/or available in an emergency. One person claiming to be an organizer contacted the Village office to promise the entrances to town would not be blocked. We'll see. We don't disagree with the right of peaceful protest, but large crowds can quickly become unruly.

Here are the steps I would suggest you follow to help make your home and person safer.

- Until this occupation is over, pretend you are living in a big city.
- Make sure all your doors and windows are locked, especially if you are leaving home for any period of time.
- Lock your vehicles, don't leave any valuables visible in the vehicle, and certainly don't leave any keys in the vehicle. If possible, park off the street.
- Make sure all your outbuildings, sheds, garages, and so on are securely locked.
- Check your yard lights, porch lights, and alarm systems if you have them, and use them.
- Don't open your door to strangers.
- Make sure your children are under adult supervision.
- Do not confront protestors.

As always, the phone number in an emergency is 911.

Non- emergency contact numbers or in case of 911 outage:

Police RCMP (Milk River) - Complaint: 403-647-3955 , **Admin:** 403-647-2427

Hospital (Milk River) - (403) 647 3500

Public Works - Phone: (403) 344-3731

There are reports of plans for fireworks use. Prepare your animals the same way you would for those occasions when we have legal celebrations.

Please check with your neighbours and make sure they have received the message.

Stay safe.

Jim Willett, Mayor, Village of Coutts